

**ACTION
GIRL
COMICS**

SHE'S

Action Girl

**NO. 2
JAN.**



\$2.75

SED



ANOTHER GREAT ACTION GIRL ANTHOLOGY
FEATURING: ELIZABETH WATASIN! SARAH DYER! PATTY LEIDY!
LEANNE FRANSON! CHANTALE DOYLE! AND MANY MORE!

Action Girl

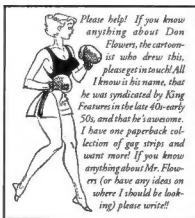
C O M I C S

WELCOME!! Hello, you have discovered the second issue of *Action Girl Comics*, a new anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, with more than a slight punk/DIY influence. Girl-positive and female-friendly — never anti-boy. As far as content — well, the best way to explain it would probably be to say that it is not exactly an anthology. It is more like a zine — it is wholly *my* comic, not some publisher's collection of stuff. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities (which include: printing stories on subjects that are more universal in theme; and providing a place for a new generation of cartoonists to be discovered — personally, I'm thrilled to have stories from my own punk/post-punk generation to read, even if I had to print them myself.) This is no way means that you have to be into any of the things I've named, or even understand them — the most important facet of *Action Girl* is accessibility. Inclusion, not exclusion, that's my goal. So please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

SAY HELLO TO ACTION GIRL: Please note that the address listed below is NEW, if you read the first issue. The only difference is the number of the POBox (060456=bad, 060380=good). We are also online at last thanks to my mom's patient pestering. You can actually e-mail me (I can hardly believe it myself) at Alilena@aol.com. I had planned to use "ActionGirl" but not only did someone ruin it for me, but after a few sessions with my brother's screen name, I discovered that if anything can be taken sexually it will be. So that's why I didn't.

(NOT SO) SECRET ORIGIN: *Action Girl Comics* is an outgrowth of my long-running Action Girl projects, which all started with a newsletter I began publishing in 1992 (a guide to projects produced by girls, grrls and women — boy-friendly but very pro-girl). After listing a ton of great minis by women that no-one knew about, I decided I wanted to start collecting their work in comics form. Interestingly enough, I named the newsletter after a comic character I'd created — and now she's come full circle. In this issue we even have a short story in which she appears — her next adventure will take place in issue #4!

PEP TALK: Remember — ACTION IS EVERYTHING! Our society, even when it's trying to be "alternative" usually just promotes a consumerist mentality. Buying things isn't evil, but if that's all you do, your life is pretty pointless. Be an ACTION GIRL (or boy)! It's great to read / listen to / watch other people's creative output, but it's even cooler to do it yourself. Don't think you can do comics? Try anyway, even if they're just for yourself! Or maybe think about writing for a zine, or working at shows or benefits. Volunteer! Learn to sew! Not everyone is suited to doing projects on their own, but everyone has something to contribute. So go out and do something with all that positive energy!



Action Girl Comics #2 — January 18, 1995 Created and edited by Sarah Dyer. Published by Slave Labor Graphics. President: Dan "Green Ranger" Vado; Publisher: Craig Pape. Action Girl title and character © & TM 1995 Sarah Dyer. All contents © 1995 by the respective artists and writers. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, except for purposes of review. Any similarity to persons living or dead is satirical in nature or a total coincidence. **Printed in Canada.**



About how 1994 went for me — by Evan.

WRAP-UP: Quick thanks — Evan Dorkin for being swell; my Action Brother and new roommate Tim; all my fabulous contributors; Roberta Gregory for all the support (and the interview); Elim for making me buy things. And of course, YOU! Insert obligatory "what I listen to list" here — Skinned Teen (Lookout! split CD), Mambo Taxi, Pizzicato Five (*Overdose* CD), Wanda Jackson, *History of Mothra*, Hoodlum Empire, and the Star Wars Xmas album which we found for \$1 this week (well, actually we couldn't handle it for more than about 20 seconds at a time so I don't know if it counts). Cover designed/executed/colored by moi; illustration by Elizabeth Watasin. See you in three months!

Send letters, comments, submissions, and presents of Sanrio to:

Sarah Dyer, AGC

PO Box 060380, Staten Island NY 10304.

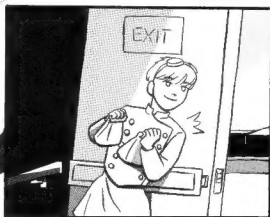
e-mail: Alilena@aol.com

Second Printing - October 1995

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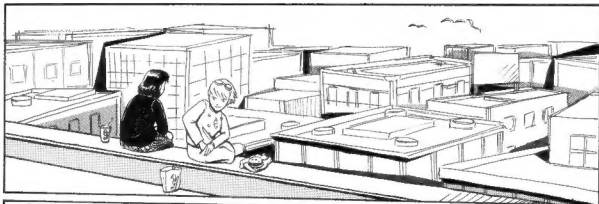
MORTALITY

WITH
ACTION GIRL



AND WITH
FLYING
GIRL

♡ ELIZABETH (A) 94



LOOK, I BROUGHT YOU *MACE*. I USE THIS TO PROTECT MYSELF. FOR DEFENSE, IT'S THE BEST THING.

MACE?
... NO
THANKS.



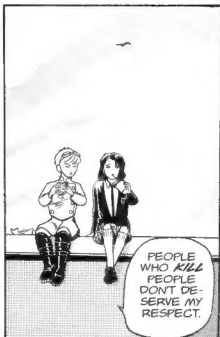
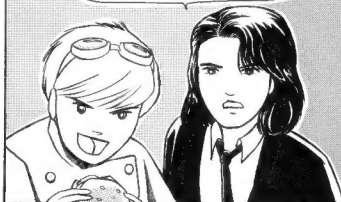
YOU'RE NOT A *SUPERHERO* GIRL! YOU CAN'T JUST FLY INTO A FIGHT WITH YOUR TWO FISTS AND YELL, "*STOP, THIEVES!*"

WHAT I DO *SPOOKS* PEOPLE. I'VE INTERRUPTED SITUATIONS AND SAVED LIVES THAT WAY.



I'M NOT INTO *APPREHENDING* EITHER, BUT THE INTERRUPTING PART IS *HARD* WHEN THE OTHER SIDE'S GOT *GUNS*.

ERICA. I DON'T THINK OF PEOPLE WHO *HARM* PEOPLE AS THE "OTHER".



PEOPLE WHO *KILL* PEOPLE DON'T DESERVE MY RESPECT.

I SHOULD GET GOGGLES. I CAN FLY REALLY FAST BUT IT'S HARD ON MY EYES.



REALLY? AS FAST AS *JETS*?!

NOT *THAT* FAST.

CAN YOU FLY WAY UP *THERE*, WITH *PLANES*?



I TRIED TO GO AS FAR UP AS I COULD, ONCE. THERE'S A POINT WHERE I CAN'T BREATHE, BUT JUST BELOW THERE ARE THESE *CURRENTS* THE BIRDS RIDE, AND I CAN FLOAT ON THOSE PRACTICALLY ALL DAY, LOOKING AT THE EARTH.

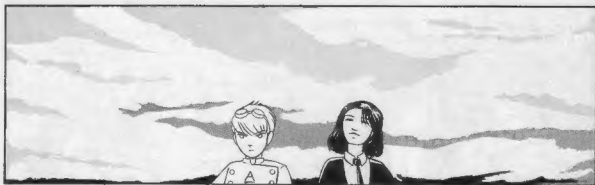
THE WORLD LOOKS *WONDERFUL* FROM UP THERE. EVERYTHING'S SMALL AND KIND OF TIDY. THAT'S JUST AN ILLUSION, OF COURSE, BUT IT MAKES THINGS SORT OF UNDERSTANDABLE, SOMETIMES.

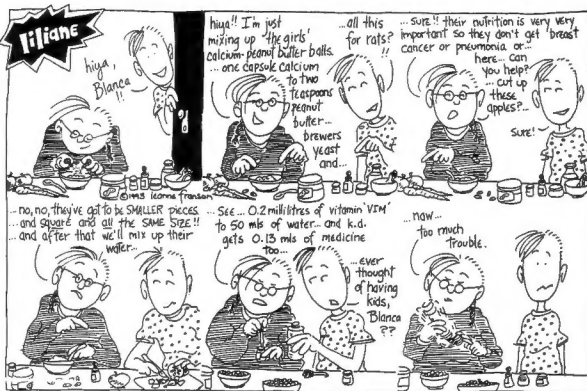
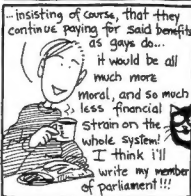
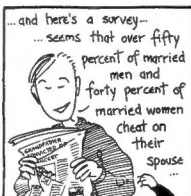
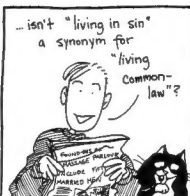
MY DAD DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN I GO UP. HE'S AFRAID I'LL LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS, AND START TO *FALL*.



AND...
HURT
YOURSELF.







beautiful

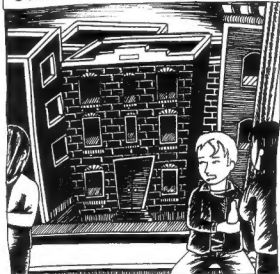
The sun is coming up
over the city



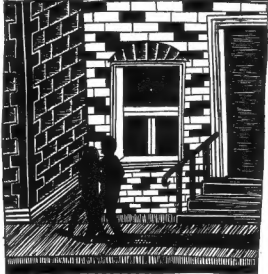
a couple is kissing
in the corner



she is talking to
someone who doesn't care



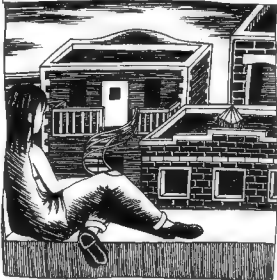
Someone else is leaving
without saying goodbye



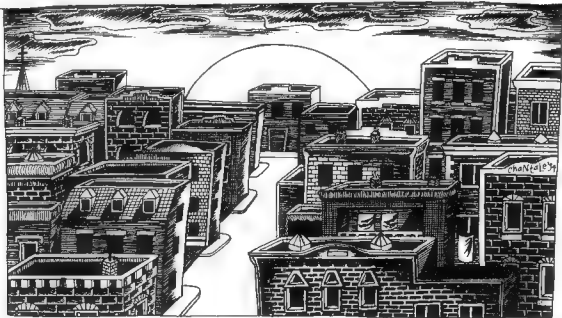
the conversation has
turned to laughter.



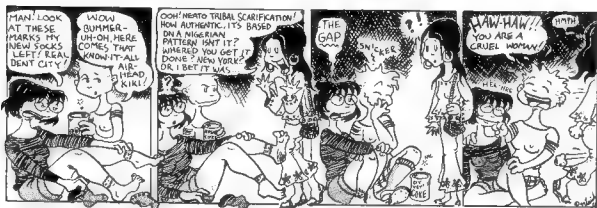
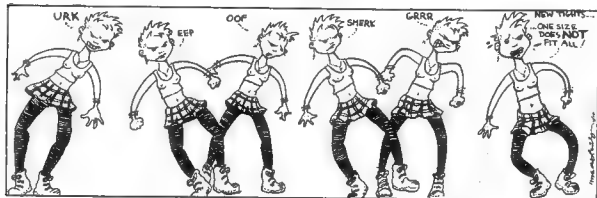
Im just sitting here
watching the sun rise,

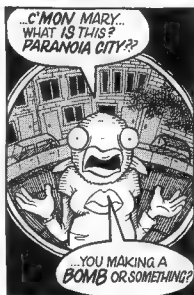
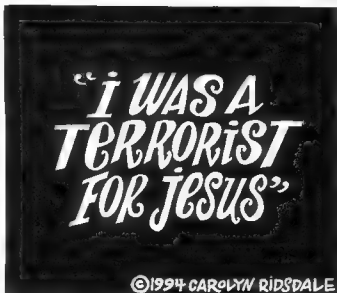


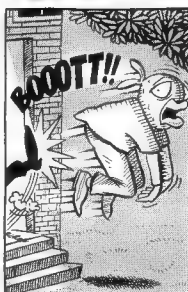
isnt it the most beautiful thing you've ever seen?

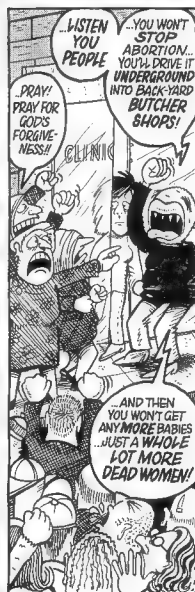
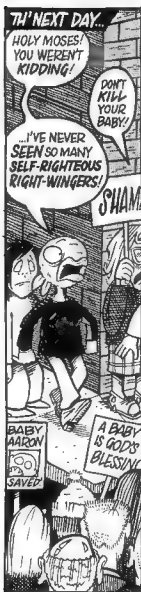


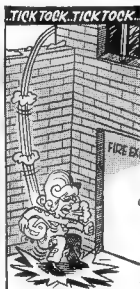
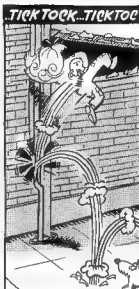
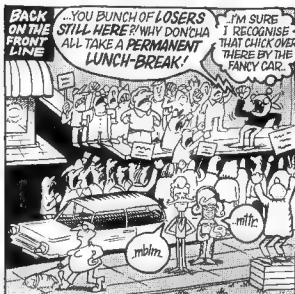
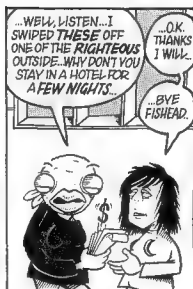


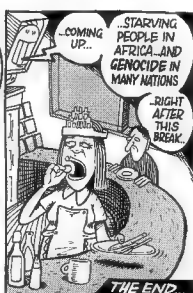
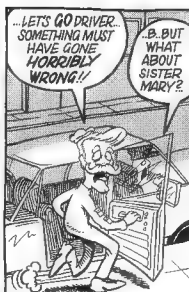












THE VERY FIRST APPEARANCE OF...

ACTION GIRL

CUT and COLOR ACTIVITY PAGE

get your crayons!
get your
scissors!

The "growing-out"
hair style.
Color various
shades of purple.
Whimsy
a comb!

Cheap
headbands made
from cut-up t-shirts.
Color any color!!

On TV:
Pocket Fences
or an old movie.

ACTION GIRL STAYS HOME

Huge, comfy and
optional (weather-dependent)
t-shirt. All cotton, well used
but not washed enough.
Color well-worn and faded.

ACTION GIRL GOES TO MOM'S

Hi
Mom,
let's talk
about our
boyfriends!
Aren't
guys
jerks!!

ACTION GIRL!!

don't forget
the most
important
Coca Cola!!

Thick black
stockings -
(tights and
pantyhose
aggravate those
"feminine"
problems.)

100% cotton
boot socks. No
blisters!!
Color purple

Boys 3-a-pack
boxers - cheap
and comfy!!
Color faded pastels.

Baggy shorts
made from old
men's pants cut
off below the
knee and rolled
up. Multi-colored.

"baggy trousers"

Action boots! \$9 from
thrift shop - go with all action
outfits and outlast Docs.



ACTION GIRL GOES SKA!

dirty socks from
never wearing
in the house!

Button put
your favorite
band here.

ACTION GIRL FIGHTSEVIL!

AG's official
heroine jacket.
Dashing, yet
warm and
comfy.

Like
anyone has
this body. Do
these guys
ever have
dates? Have
they seen a
woman's
body?

Save her now!!

"Instructions:
Cut out,
then rip
up over
a trash
can while
laughing
gleefully!!
hahahahahaha

Like you can
do any-
thing in
this
cape.

Crisp
white shirt
stolen
from a
boy.

Ties
should only
come in
black

Kicky pleated skirt -
dark or a nice plaid.

Evilstomping boots give
Action Girl extra powers.

stomp out
all bad!!



DESIGN A
COLOR SCHEME FOR
ACTION GIRLS'
BATTLES AGAINST
EVIL!!



Rudie hat!
Cut on dotted
line. Color black
and slip
over Action
Girl's head.



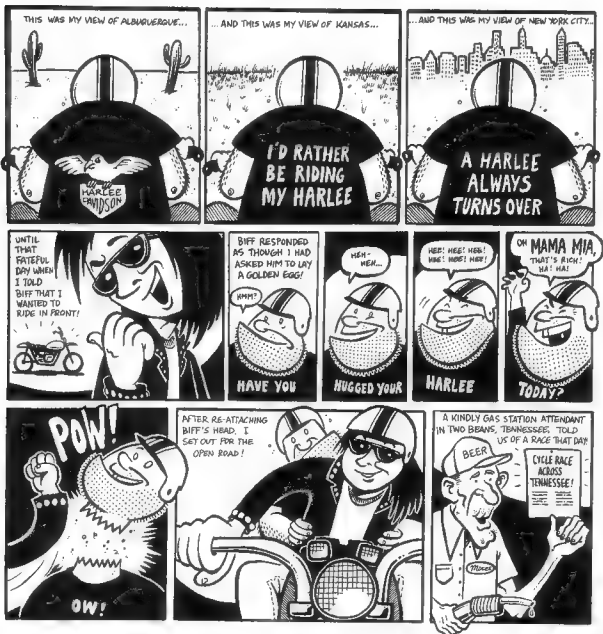
Where do
these boots
come from?
Special stores
for super-gals
and hookers?

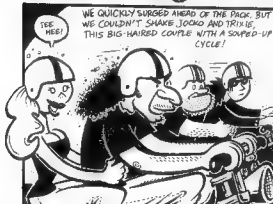
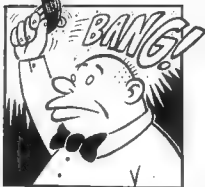
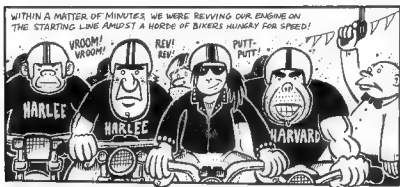
so pathetic.

GWEN

and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

by Jennifer Sorensen







Your Hostesses:



Kris Dresen is an illustrator currently working on a "huge" textbook project, using cartoons to teach kids. She's also the co-founder of Vagabond press, from which you can procure some more of her work, including minis *Manya*, *Harsh* and a selection of "poetry" minis. Send \$2 for *Manya* or *Harsh*, or all of the poetry minis, or just send a postcard to get a catalog from: Vagabond Press, 2300 N. Clybourn Ave, Suite #2, Chicago IL 60614.



Elizabeth Watasin is a professional artist living in L.A. All she wants to do is daydream the live long days away and make being forlorn an art form. And watch cartoons. Her work has appeared in the back pages of *Strangers in Paradise*. Her own mini-comic, *Adventures of A-Girl!* (issues 1-3, plus *A-Girl Etc!*, a compilation of reader's cartoons) is available for \$1 ppd each from Elizabeth at: 120 So. San Fernando Blvd #231, Burbank, CA 91502.



Leanne Franson is a Bi Canadian cartoonist/illustrator, born in Regina (Sask.) and now in Montréal with her two cats. She's currently exploring England with a four-year work visa but promises to keep up with her self-publishing schedule. Her work has appeared in countless publications, including: *Girlfrenzy*, *Mousie*, *Dyke's Delight*, *Girlflock*, the *Houston Voice*, the *Las Vegas Bugle*, *Utne Reader*, *Real Girl*, *Brat Attack* and the book *What is this thing called SEX?* Her own long-running series, *Liliane*, is available from her for \$1.50 (postpaid) per copy — there are 25 issues out now, so order "most recent" or send a SASE for a catalogue to: PO Box 274, Succ. Place Du Parc, Montréal, Québec, H2W 2N8 CANADA



Chantale Doyle is a French-Canadian self-publisher who is currently taking a year-long sabbatical to work on her drawing. (Something that people who need it a lot more never seem to do.) She has suspended her acclaimed mini-comic *Misery & Vomit*, but until she begins publishing again, you can get the "best of" *Misery & Vomit* for \$3 ppd, as well as *Mesmerize* (a fumetti) for \$5 ppd. Order from: Chantale, Box 42033, Montréal, Québec, H2W 2T3, and keep your eye out for her stuff!



Patty Leidy is currently living in Atlanta hobnobbing with other cartoonists and hitting every coffee shop in search of that perfect atmosphere conducive to great comic stories. A Hello Kitty nut since 1980 and collector of pez and all things strange (as if you hadn't guessed). Her work has appeared in *Dog Soup*, *Naughty Bits*, and a local paper, *Drawl*. Her solo book (32 pp., fullsize) is now available for \$3 + 3 stamps from: 985 Greenwood Ave NE #2, Atlanta GA 30306. Send strange toys and get a free drawing!



Carolyn Ridsdale is an Australian ex-patriate now living in Amsterdam after serving time as an illustrator & comic strip creator in London. She appears regularly in *Girlfrenzy* and *Fanny*, and has recently self-published her first comic, *Moist #0*, which boasts the most succulently screen-printed cover around some of her best-known work (including more *Fishead* stories). Available from Slab-O-Concrete, PO Box 148, Hove, BN3 3DQ, UK for (US)\$5. (Includes postage.)

Your Hostesses:



Sarah Dyer is a frenetic over-worked Sanrio addict transplanted to New York and suffering through the winter. Her work has appeared in obscure zines and on hard-to-find album covers, and, well, okay, *Disney Adventures*. For a catalog of all of Sarah's self-publishing (including: the music/essay zine *Mad Planet*; the personal *Kikizine*; and all the components of the *Action Girl* empire) send a SASE to: P.O. Box 060380, Staten Island, NY 10306 (PLEASE NOTE NEW BOX NUMBER!!)



Jennifer Sorensen is a hard-working 3rd year student at the University of Virginia whose work has appeared in their collective (and highly recommended) U. of V. comic anthology, *Zero*. Issues 1 and 2 are available from Null Set Publications, 134 Tucker, Newcomb Hall Station, Charlottesville VA 22904-0061.



Next Issue:

Issue three promises to be an incredible one — I'm probably looking forward to it more than you are! The cover (at left) is a beautiful full-color affair, designed & executed by me with a lovely illustration courtesy of Jessica Abel (sadly absent from this issue). Inside, another batch of pages from all your favorite female comix types — a brand-new story by Megan Kelso, a new one by Carolyn Ridsdale, the first appearance in Action Girl Comics by Ariel Bordeaux, a new story by Jessica Abel, work by Patty Leidy, Carol Seatory, Elizabeth Watasin and myself. And on the back, a full-color Action Girl comic!! It will be out in April, and there's no reason your comic shop can't pre-order it for you. And don't forget about issue one — if you missed it, ask your shop to get it or order direct from Slave! ♥ Sarah

And now I'd like to present the *Action Girl Comics* official t-shirt, featuring our favorite heroine, Action Girl herself, and drawn as a present for me by honorary action boy Evan Dorkin. Proclaim your hipness, your intelligence, and your loyalty to Action Girl all at once by wearing this awesome shirt. (And I think you'll probably not be seeing it on too many other people.) Printed in a fabulous shade of Power Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. (Note: girls; I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.) Be the first on your block to sport this hallmark of true coolness. Also, there is a black-and-white sticker of this design, pretty good sized, too (about 3" x 5"!!). And you can get it absolutely free by just sending in the coupon on the back of this page. You'll also get a (free) catalog from Slave Labor to make ordering that much easier. And if you do want to order a shirt or comic, you can do it when you send in your coupon. C'mon, you know you want to!



Action Girl

further reading:

Obviously, the first recommendation I have is the other issues of *Action Girl Comics*. Issue one is still available and features artists Jessica Abel, Elizabeth Watsan, Leanne Franson, Megan Kelso, Jennifer Sorensen, and of course, me, among others. Issue three (info p. 23) will be out in April and I beg you to ask your store to order it — we need retailer support!

Mini-comics: Most *AGC* contributors have fantastic minis available, which you'll see listed in their bios. But I haven't gotten any others since I did the last issue. Girls who do mini-comics — please write! Your name could be here!

On the non-mini side of things: Roberta Gregory's *Naughty Bits* (published by Fantagraphics) has a new issue out and is staying on it's regular schedule. Roberta's work is great and very accessible whatever your generation. I just did a long interview with Roberta which appears in the new issue of *Mad Planet* (order from me for \$1 ppd). Japanese wunderkind Rumiko Takahashi doesn't just do the wildly popular *Ranma ½* (published by Viz). Her other translated works are becoming more popular and available too — try *Maison Ikkoku* for the kind of romantic comedy you can't get here, or any of the *Mermaid* series for a new take on horror. Speaking of manga by women, Viz will be publishing the second in their series of Japanese "women's" comics this February which I suggest you look out for — it's called *They Were 11*. Speaking of women's comics, the Canadian magazine *Oh...* has become a quarterly comic showcasing one artist per issue. #9 features the "tomboy" stories of Dianne Reum and is a really funny read. Issue #10 will be out in Feb 95 and will feature England's Tristram Puppy — judging by the short preview it should be quite good as well. An excellent co-ed effort I'd like to mention is *Very Vicky* (published by Meet Danny Ocean) by Jana Christy & John Mitchell (I think she draws & he writes). Recent issues have revolved around a hip, drunken *Mad Mad Mad Mad World* sort of thing. *VV* is hipster to the limit.

Girl-friendly by guys: lots of guys do comics that are relevant and interesting to women. I mentioned *Love & Rockets* (Jaime & Gilbert Hernandez, Fantagraphics) and *Hectic Planet* (Evan Dorkin, Slave Labor) last time and continue to recommend them. To start, pick up any recent *L&R*, or *HP* (aka *Pirate Corp\$!*) #5. I don't know how I forgot to mention the amazing *Mad Love*, by Paul Dini & Bruce Timm (from DC, in the *Batman Adventures* line). Great story about a totally dysfunctional relationship and beautiful art. Any other *Batman Adventures* special by Paul & Bruce is a definite must as well. And even though they're not nearly as good, I continue to buy any issue of the regular *Batman Adventures* series featuring girl characters. A good way to get a non-annoying superhero dose! *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* by Japanese animation great Hayao Miyazaki is finally finishing up through Viz — the art is amazing, and Nausicaä is the ultimate girl hero of all time. If you've never heard of Nausicaä, you should probably look for the paperback collections first instead of jumping in towards the end.

Finally, I'd like to point out that when comics were in their heyday, there were a lot of comics oriented towards women and girls, and comics in general were a lot more friendly (and comics creators were a lot more talented). While "collector's" copies of old comics are totally overpriced, banged up "reader's" copies are often available in back issue bins of shops or at conventions for \$1 or less. The bonafide romance comics are only good for a laugh, but there's lots of other cool stuff you can find. Great girl stuff: *Little Lulu*, *Little Dot*, old Archie comics (like pre-65), and lots of other characters — just look! Superheroines: there were a lot more of them back then, and they all dressed sensibly. A great comic to look for is *Avengers* #83, "the Revolution's Fine" a story about the short-lived all-female Lady Liberators (members: Scarlet Witch, Medusa, Wasp, Valkyrie, Black Widow). The story's a little sexist, true, but what a cast! And while Wonder Woman's gone through her bad eras, in general there's a lot of solid story in there. (And I am personally seeking issues from the short-lived "mod" era WW — if you have any you'd like to sell cheap please write!) If you know of any comics you think I should list, please send them to me or let me know about them — I'm always looking for new cool stuff. That's it for now. 'Til next time...make mine hello kitty!

Would you like more **action girl** stuff?

If you simply fill out this coupon (or a copy of it) and mail it to Slave Labor, you will receive a **FREE!** Action Girl sticker (of the cool t-shirt design) and a Slave Labor catalog, featuring several of the titles mentioned above. Trust me, this sticker is more than worth a 29¢ 32¢ stamp!! (Oops — have to get used to that...) Fill out and send to: Slave Labor Graphics, 979 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose CA 95128.

my name: _____

my address: _____

city: _____ state: _____ zip: _____

I can't wait to get my free sticker and Slave Labor catalog! Also, please send me the following:

- ____ additional copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #2 \$2.50 plus postage
____ copy/copies of *Action Girl Comics* #1 (I missed it, wah!) \$2.50 plus postage
a fabulous Action Girl t-shirt, size ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large \$13.99 plus postage

(Make checks/money orders out to Slave Labor Graphics. Enclose \$1.50 postage for the first book, 25¢ for each additional book; \$2 for the first shirt, \$1 for each one after that.)

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY WAS SAFE

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